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## BOOK REVIEWS

IN CHARGE OF

M. E. CAMERON, R.N.

THE HOUSE FLY, *Musca Domestica* Linn.: ITS STRUCTURE, HABITS, DEVELOPMENT, RELATION TO DISEASE, AND CONTROL. By C. Gordan Hewitt, D.Sc., F.R.S.C., Dominion Entomologist of Canada; formerly Lecturer in Economic Zoology in the University of Manchester. Cambridge, at the University Press, New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons. Price, 15 shillings.

That our old enemy has not been slighted or neglected in any way we may well believe, when we realize that the present volume represents nine years of study and investigation on the part of the author. Moreover this is his second book on the subject. Furthermore, we find that in the course of his studies he consulted the works of between four and five hundred writers who have contributed to the literature concerning the house fly, his more or less distantly related family, and the part they play in the world's mischief. It would seem that at last the time has come when no one can plead ignorance in extenuation of the tolerance of the fly. We are told of the breeding habits of the fly, its life history, its relation to disease. We are also told of preventive and remedial measures to be taken and exhorted to make organized effort to do away with a dangerous and needless pest. May Heaven speed the day when the application of the knowledge so carefully and painstakingly acquired, is universal.

MOTHER CRAFT. By Sarah Comstock. Hearst's International Library Co., 119 West 40th St., New York. Price \$1.

This book is made up from a series of papers contributed by Mrs. Comstock to the *Good Housekeeping Magazine* and later arranged in its present form. Its aim "is to put into non-technical English some of the newest teachings expressed by some of the safest and sanest specialists of today." "The material has been sifted from teachings and preachings of physicians, teachers, nurses, and other specialists who, in different cities of our country, rank among the highest authorities." The author states that having had her attention called to the teaching and preparation afforded expectant mothers of the poorer classes, she proposes to extend that same teaching to all expectant and actual mothers,

since the daughters of all classes are likely to need it; and her book testifies to the thoroughness with which she enters into the subject. The first four chapters deal with the preparation for the coming child; the last four with the care of the child.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS. By H. Franklin Parsons, M.D. (Lond.) D.P.H. (Cambridge.) Formerly First Assistant Officer of the Local Government Board. Cambridge, at the University Press, G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. Price 12 shillings, 6 pence.

The isolation of infectious disease, whether in hospital or in the home, is the subject considered in this volume, which is one of the Cambridge Public Health Manuals published under the joint editorship of G. S. Graham-Smith, M.D., University Lecturer in Hygiene, and I. E. Purvis, M.A., University Lecturer in Chemistry and Physics in their application to hygiene and preventive medicine. The construction of the isolation hospital and everything relating to its efficient conduct is discussed. The reasons for the high cost of maintenance is fully explained and members of county boards and hospital committees may confidently expect to find in its pages the solution to many problems that beset their service. The small village hospital, by the way, with its local board and more or less patriarchal system of government, seems a more human and kindly institution than the huge state and county hospitals of our own country. The book does not go into the nursing in isolation hospitals but from the rules cited in the conduct of certain joint hospitals one gathers that the nursing is by no means overlooked.

THE DETERMINATION OF SEX. By L. Doncaster, Sc.D., Fellow of Kings College, Cambridge. Cambridge: The University Press, New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

In a war-ridden world there are still to be found those who live in the pursuit of law and order; evidence the present volume which, though chiefly of interest to students of biology, will be found readable by many people entirely innocent of scientific knowledge. There is no hint at control of sex; there are no startling theories to attract the speculative mind; it may perhaps be best described as a summary of the research relating to sex determination up to the present time. The subject is by no means exhausted, and much remains to be done before the problem is solved.